Cooperation to fight against terrorism

†834. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have called up the various countries in the world to extend co-operation to fight against the terrorism prevailing in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the various countries in the world and the countries which have given an assurance of their cooperation to India; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. As a victim of cross border terrorism for many decades India has played an active role in drawing the international community's attention to the need to prioritize the fight against terrorism through enhanced cooperation. Terrorism is a global phenomenon whose destructive reach and lethal potential has been enhanced by global networks of illicit trafficking in drug, money laundering and arms smuggling. We believe that there can be no justification for terrorism: political, religious, religious or any other. India has presented a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. In the ongoing negotiations on this draft Convention at the UN, agreement has been reached on most provisions. The negotiations are continuing.

The international community has been generally responsive. The resolve of the international community is reflected in UN Security Council Resolution 1373 of 28th September, 2001, which contains mandatory provisions for combating terrorism.

America's strategy to ease Indo-Pak tension

835. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Secretary of State, on the eve of his recent visit to New Delhi *via* Islamabad, had said that he had come with fresh ideas to ease Indo-Pak tensions;

(b) if so, what were the fresh ideas revealed by General Powell; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.